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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/554,211	05/10/2000	COREY JAMES KENNEALLY	6934	6519

27752 7590 06/03/2004

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
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EXAMINER

CARR, DEBORAH D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1621

DATE MAILED: 06/03/2004

16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/554,211

Applicant(s)

KENNEALLY ET AL.

Examiner

Deborah D Carr

Art Unit

1621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 27 January 2003 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see page 2, paragraphs 3-5, filed 27 January 2003, with respect to claims 11-39 rejected under 35 USC § 102(b)/112, 2nd have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 11-39 has been withdrawn.
3. The following rejections are deemed proper.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 11-39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

These claims are rendered indefinite regarding the phrase "High Purity." There is no indication or range given to determine what renders the fatty acid ester as being high in purity.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 11-13, 17-18, 20 & 32 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP'485.

EP'485 discloses a process of preparing fatty acid lower alkyl esters wherein esters are formed via esterification, by-products separated via conventional water washing, the water-washed ester produces is distilled to produce an ester product of at least 98%, an acid value less than 10, under elevated temperatures. The process also includes a bleaching step. Applicable fatty acid sources include vegetable oils that may be partially or fully harden, see col. 2, lines 41-55 and col. 3, lines 1-5. The claims differ from the reference by stating that the washing step is conducted under elevated pressure.

However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the pressure of the washing step because it is taught on page 3, col. 3, lines 44-49 that the reaction conditions can be atmospheric as well as sub- or super atmospheric. Also it should be noted that the entire process is conducted under pressure in closed systems there one can extrapolate that washing step is conducted under elevated pressure also.

Claim Objections

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8. Claims 2-7 are objected to as being drawn to compounds in the context of a product-by-process claim format. The objection is based on the fact that the compounds produced by the process are definite as to their meaning. As such, claims to the compounds can stand alone. Product-by-process claim language is reserved for situations where the compound cannot be claimed in a definite manner. The instant application does not fall into this category, as the compounds are definite. Further, there is no showing that the process of making imparts new and unobvious properties to the compounds themselves.

9. Therefore, product-by-process claims 32-39 will be treated as compound claims for the purpose of this examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 32-39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by EP'485.

EP'483 discloses high purity fatty acid esters. A claim to a compound defined by reference to the process by which it is produced, is not limited to compounds produced by the process recited in the claim. Therefore, process limitations cannot impart patentability to a product that is not patentably distinguished over the prior art.

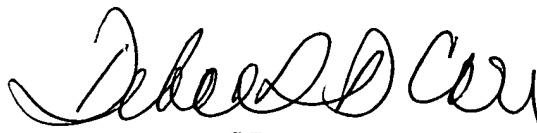
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Deborah D Carr whose telephone number is 571-272-0637. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Johann Richter can be reached on 571-272-0646. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ddc



DEBORAH D. CARR
PRIMARY EXAMINER